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CORRELATION OF THE
PHYSICIAN AND THE
LAYMAN.

ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT.

—BY—

WILLIAM FRANCIS DREWRY, M. D.,
Petersburg, Va.

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ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT.*

By WILLIAM FRANCIS DREWRY, M. D.,
Petersburg, Va.

Superintendent Central (Virginia) State Hospital, etc

Fellow members of the Medical Society of Virginia, ladies and gentlemen:

"No man," says Carlyle, "is born without ambitious worldly desires." To be the official head of this Society is surely a most laudable aspiration. Conscious, however, of my unworthiness and of my inability to measure up to the standard of my predecessors, it was with painful misgivings that I assumed the duties and responsibilities of this high office. But, one thought reconciles me, and that is this: The same generosity that prompted my colleagues to thrust this greatness upon me, will perhaps induce them to "pass my imperfections by." Psychology teaches us that it is most difficult to give expression to our deepest emotions. Therefore, gentlemen, I acknowledge, in stereotype phrase, but with profound gratitude, your expression of confidence and partiality.

A British historian once said: "Before you attempt to write on any subject, be quite cer-

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tain that you can say something fresh about it.”

As there is nothing original in me but original sin, I dare not hope to tell you anything new. The field has been so well harvested that there is little left even for a gleaner.

Having made my confession, I shall make some discursive remarks on *The Correlation of the Physician and the Layman*.

RECENT ADVANCES IN MEDICINE AND SURGERY.

It is pertinent to insert in this address to the profession and the public some of the more important recent advances in medicine and surgery.

The past thirty years has been the most active period in the acquisition of medical knowledge and medical art. It marks the transformation from the old to the new. It is characterized by the most fruitful endeavor and the most brilliant achievements which have yet been added to the imperishable chronicles of the profession of medicine.

The discovery and the development of the bacterial, or germ, origin of disease, and the application of the newly acquired knowledge, have revolutionized the practice of medicine along many important channels. Between the pathologist and the clinician a closer alliance has been formed, resulting in giving new insight into disease processes. The results of research conducted in laboratories have brought about a more definite solution of difficult prob-

lems in place of conjecture, as to the origin and spread of infectious diseases, as exemplified especially in the prevention of tuberculosis, cholera, malaria, yellow fever, plague and other diseases.

Dr. Clouston did not overstate the case when he said: "The sensational triumphs of modern surgery which Lister has brought about by a study of the microbic enemies of mankind, the good effects of anti-serums and the abolition of malaria by killing mosquitoes, are often looked on as miraculous tales of the supernatural rather than as the results of scientific study."

In the past few years, to chloroform and ether have been added local, spinal, and other anesthetics to further illuminate the horizon of surgery and to enlarge the scope of its already splendid accomplishments. Among other special advances in surgery, may be mentioned the application of anti-sepsis and asepsis; the opsonic diagnosis and treatment; improved operative technique in the management of intra-peritoneal diseases generally and in the digestive tract especially; radical surgery of malignant growths and of the brain and nervous system; development and progress in operative gynecology; direct transfusion of blood by the anastomosis of arteries, and suturing blood-vessels, meaning the possibility of exchange of organs. The X-rays and various other electrical appli-

ances for diagnostic and therapeutic purposes in both surgery and medicine have cleared our pathway to the solution of many perplexing problems.

The transformation that has taken place in hospitals of every character indicates an upward tendency. The crude methods of not many years ago have given away, in the evolution of these institutions, to means of investigation, more accurate diagnosis and new appliances for proper and scientific treatment. These, with the humane and skillful care of the sick and injured and infirm, have practically destroyed public prejudice and inspired confidence.

The exigencies of the times have lead to better equipped men for general practice and surgery, as well as for the specialties. Better academic preparation than formerly is now required of the medical matriculate. More emphasis is being put upon the importance of clinical training at the bed-side and in surgical demonstration. A more extended and thorough medical curriculum is required, and finally, a test of qualification is made by a state medical examining board. Notwithstanding this advance in the past twenty years, we have not yet reached that desired high standard in either the academic requirements or the medical qualifications for which the better element

in the profession and the higher class medical school are striving. But this is forthcoming.

Viewed from the vantage ground of present achievement, greater things may be expected in the years to come. I am not in accord, however, with that charming optimism which holds out for the future the possibility of the ultimate extinction of disease and a prolonged tenure of human existence. As long as vicious heredity, untoward environment, ignorance, weak and perverted wills exist, disease, infirmity and death, will cast their shadows over the pathway of mankind; and just as surely will the end come from sheer old age, which, like a "low-burning flame, flickers and finally goes out."

THE FORWARD MOVEMENT.

To preserve health and to prevent disease are the objects of the great modern science and art of preventive medicine, which is the highest development of our science. A wider knowledge and a more exact application of prophylaxis have become to be recognized as probably the most important features of medicine, surgery, obstetrics and sanitary science. The results have been seen in the improvement of the health of the people, lessening the suffering of the living, saving lives and increasing human happiness. There is witnessed everywhere a general awakening, which is crystalizing in

efficient organized efforts, under governmental direction and control.

This great movement to combat the enemies to health consists in efforts to bring about normal living conditions, improve the family and home life, reform and improve the methods of teaching and training children, secure adequate sanitary protection, prevent premature deaths, insure inspection and control of all sources of public water supply, provide proper disposal of sewerage, maintain, wherever needed, efficient quarantine regulations, enact and enforce laws regarding pure food and drugs, establish a general system of vital statistics, etc.

In order to make the efforts of the boards of health, commissioners and other custodians of the people's health, effective, public opinion must be aroused to an intelligent appreciation of the value of preventive measures in the most comprehensive sense. The government, in which lies the power to make laws and enforce proper protection to its citizens, has no higher duty than that of safeguarding their health. To do this, ample means is the first prerequisite. The next is the employment of well-equipped, thoroughly trained and conscientious public health officials. Means should be provided for the establishment of sanatoria for the tuberculous, and laboratories for research and study into the causes, origin and prevention of various diseases, such as malaria, typhoid

fever, tuberculosis, pneumonia, dysentery, epilepsy, insanity, cancer, etc.

Under the leadership of men, with brave spirits, who had the courage and capacity to lead, supported by a progressive public sentiment, and backed by a beneficent and able government, the greatest triumphs of sanitary science in the history of the world, have been recently witnessed, in the restoration of Cuba and Panama from pestilence and death, and in the sanitary record of Japan in its war with Russia. As other evidences of the results of the application of modern knowledge of sanitary science, we turn to Italy and Greece. The former has been practically reclaimed from the cursed effects of malaria. The latter, the intellectual decadence of whose people is said to have been probably due to malaria, is also being restored to its high place among the intellectual nations of the world.

The International Congress on Tuberculosis, just closed in Washington, was far and away in advance of any movement yet made in this country, toward demonstrating the extent and magnitude of the fight against tuberculosis, and how stupendous have been the results in some places, in decreasing the mortality rate from this scourge. The papers and discussions at the Congress, and exhibits were wonderful in their scope and variety, and will most surely spur on to further action by individuals and

organized forces. The moving and eloquent story told by some of the speakers was truly inspiring. Whether the question of the unity of the human and bovine bacilli was settled or not, the startling fact remains that, upon a fair estimate, there are in this country from 140,000 to 160,000 deaths a year from tuberculosis, and that 5,000,000 of our people, according to Professor Fisher, of Yale University, are doomed to death by this disease, and that the cost, estimated in money, to the people is more than a billion dollars a year. Does not this demand the united efforts of the medical profession, the public and the governments everywhere?

Our own society should, at this session, inaugurate a movement for a general State Anti-Tuberculosis Association. This matter will probably be formally introduced for your consideration.

INSANITY, ITS STUDY, PREVENTION, ETC.

We have not yet attained that state of knowledge, and never will, when we can prescribe conditions which would absolutely insure brain health, yet we know enough to enable us to improve mental life, and prevent, to a great extent, mental deterioration or destruction. The most valuable asset of mankind is a strong and healthy mind. It would therefore seem proper that we should arouse a discontent, with

a view of encouraging inquiry into conditions unfavorable to sound mental health.

The alienist and the metaphysician should no longer be left alone to work out the problems of mental alienation. If the family physician were more familiar with the early manifestation of abnormal mind, many a homicide or other crime or suicide would be averted, and many cases of insanity prevented from going on to a chronic condition, or to incurable dementia.

It cannot be overlooked that instruction in psychiatry has been inadequate so far as many of our medical schools are concerned. "The most urgent need of medical education in America to-day," says Dr. Welch, "is the Psychopathic Clinic, where medical students, and physicians as well, may benefit by instruction in psychiatry, and whose scientific research into the causes and cure of insanity may be carried out unceasingly."

The psychopathic ward, or hospital and clinic, is already a realization in many of the university towns of Europe, as well as in several states of this country. It is worthy of note, and should be of special interest to physicians of this state, that there will soon be established in connection with the Johns Hopkins Hospital a model psychiatric clinic, and a professorship in psychiatry, to meet the demands of modern research and teaching in this

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much neglected branch of medical study. The selection of Dr. Adolf Meyer, alienist, pathologist, investigator and teacher, to inaugurate and develop this new move is sufficient guarantee of its success.

The far-reaching practical importance of this matter is such that it cannot be much longer evaded in this State. Whether such an institution as indicated should be developed in connection with a medical school, as part of the general hospital—in the form of properly equipped psychopathic wards,—as a distinct State institution, or as a special feature of the existing State hospital service, is a matter that requires careful consideration. The last seems to be the most feasible.

There exists in the public mind much of the insoluble mysticism prevalent among our not very remote ancestors, who regarded insanity, and, in fact, diseases generally, as an inscrutable visitation of Providence as punishment for misdeeds. The people should be given a better understanding of the real nature of insanity and educated out of traditional prejudice against the public hospital for the insane. There is still a wide-spread impression that the insane patient must remain at home until he is “ripe for the asylum,” that is, incurable, generally. “The asylum,” says Maudsley, “is too often regarded rather as a burying-ground for ruined minds than a hospital for the cure

of brain diseases." Away with this cant about the stigma of being adjudged insane. Better seek the early removal of what produces the stigma. Says Professor Clifford Allbutt: "The stigma, if such there be, lies in the misfortune itself, and not in the red tape of the proceedings." Nevertheless, voluntary admission to hospitals has many decided advantages in cases of incipient insanity.

There should be a united effort on the part of physicians and the intelligent laity to bring about that popular sentiment that would demand for our insane, epileptics and feeble-minded, the best care and treatment the financial condition of the State could possibly afford.

It is to prevention, however, rather than to cure that we must look to the diminution in insanity. Indeed psychiatry should play an important role in preventive medicine of the future. Heredity, improper training in childhood, unhealthy environment and bad living methods, together with alcohol, certain constitutional diseases and the effects of vice, are responsible for a large proportion of the cases of insanity and mental defect.

As a predisposing cause, heredity can be traced to between twenty and fifty per cent. of cases. "The fathers have eaten sour grapes and the children's teeth are set on edge," is a doctrine that cannot be ignored. As Dr. Henry M. Hurd, a distinguished alienist, tells us:

“The knowledge should become universal that every individual represents the sum total of the vices and virtues, faults and perfections, strength and weaknesses of his remote ancestors, plus special morbid conditions or otherwise, which existed among his immediate progenitors.”

The first step, then, in our efforts to reduce insanity and mental defectiveness, is by their non-production. Should state medicine longer withhold its influence from this great problem of adopting rational principles of natural and sexual selection in the propagation of our species? “Should not the State take cognizance of these things, which are more insidious and equally, if not more destructive or damaging to the race, than all infectious diseases combined?” Let physicians in their professional capacity teach parents and children of the almost certain mental, or physical, or moral degeneracy in the offspring resulting from the union of two stocks already tainted with insanity, epilepsy, alcoholism, certain constitutional and other transmissible degenerating diseases and defects. Let the State enact prohibitive laws, with the view of protecting the race from disastrous diseases and invalidism.

While heredity is important as a predisposing etiological factor, it is not necessarily true that the offspring of the insane, the epileptic or

the mentally defective are bound to follow in the footsteps of their diseased parents or grandparents. In a very large measure this tendency can be controlled by the individual. Proper living, healthy environment, personal hygienic habits, nourishing food, attention to bodily functions, abundance of fresh air and sunlight, sufficient rest, sleep and physical exercise, mental recreation, and avoidance of prolonged overwork and stress, will usually outweigh even the direful effects of a bad heredity. Our brains are, after all, largely what we make them.

Need I call attention to the significance of alcoholism in its relation to insanity and degenerative processes of the organ of mind, either as cause or effect? This is a question which belongs largely in the province of scientific medicine. The pernicious influence that alcohol, opium and cocaine exercise on the physical, intellectual and moral spheres of life, cannot be controverted. A further, more thorough and impartial examination should be made regarding the alcohol question, and then the public should be given, in the plainest possible terms, definite answer to this most perplexing question: What real part does alcohol play as a medicine, as a poison, as a food, as a narcotic and motor depressant, or other effect, or as a deterrent to the development of the race?

From a practical and from a scientific stand-

point as well, it would, at least, seem that the confirmed inebriate is a proper subject for control and medical treatment, both for the good of himself and that of his family and the community. He should be committed to an institution of the farm-colony type in which his remaining abilities could be utilized to some good purposes. Many cases could thus be restored to useful citizenship.

As a prophylactic, as well as humane, measure, there needs to be a more careful medical study of the sojourners in our reformatories and prisons. Many of these are moral delinquents, or mental degenerates, many inebriates, some actually insane. It would be better for the community and the future of our race if many of these, especially the habitual criminal, who are now sent from the prisons, were permanently segregated. We may confidently look to the State Board of Charities and Correction, recently established in this State, for valuable suggestion along this line of work. An excellent provision in the law creating this new department is that requiring that a physician—a member of the local board of health—be on the local auxiliary board of inspectors of jails, and almshouses.

SUICIDE.

Suicide is another difficult problem confronting both the laity and the medical profession, which in recent years has rapidly assumed

ominous proportions. In a recent magazine article, from an authoritative source, it was stated that, in 1881, the total number of suicides in this country was 605, or, at the rate of 12 per 1,000,000 of the population. Last year the number had risen to 10,782, or at the rate of 126 per 1,000,000 of the population. During the past eighteen years 120,000 suicides have been reported in this country.

No satisfactory theory as to the causes of this great increase has been given. But doubtless much depends upon these factors: Faulty early education and training, a bad heredity, effects of excessive use of alcohol and narcotic drugs, over-indulgence in the various dissipations of the times, stress and anxiety incident to the rush after wealth and worldly success, a moral cowardice and an unwillingness to carry an extra share of burden, apparent or real.

A study of the causes of suicide often reveals a pre-existing brain disturbance, which culminates in an overpowering morbid impulse to "shuffle off this mortal coil," yet in many cases, there has been no ascertainable morbid predisposition, or other evidences of an unbalanced mind. Occasionally one guilty of a capital offense or otherwise transgressing the law, may probably resort to suicide rather than face the inevitable consequences of crime.

It has been claimed, and, with good rea-

soning, that the influence of suggestion, due to the reading of details of suicide, published in the newspapers, is an important etiological factor. Certainly the imitative element has often been observed in persons mentally weak. An attempt at suicide by one patient in a hospital for the insane is usually followed by similar attempts by other patients.

EXPERT TESTIMONY.

My time is too limited to admit of more than a brief mention of another important subject which has of late been so much in the public mind: Insanity as a defense in criminal cases. The impression seems to be generally prevalent that all insanity experts are "for hire" to the "highest bidder." This is a gross injustice to those alienists who are capable and honest. That there are dishonest medical witnesses, as there are shyster lawyers and corrupt jurors, no one will deny; but should the entire company be judged by one unprincipled fellow? People who know absolutely nothing about insanity or the intricate workings of man's mind, normal or abnormal, are ready to join in the wholesale criticism of the opinion of any and all experts. Often the opinion of a competent alienist is essential to truth and justice. Unfortunately, we sometimes see in the witness chair unscrupulous fellows, posing as experts—men whose only purpose is to get a fee or to aid the lawyer in winning the case

for "their side," regardless of the scientific truth, or else men whose lack of training or experience unqualifies them for the important role which they assume.

Every precaution should be exercised to prevent the insanity plea from being abused, and thereby giving the real criminal undeserved protection. Nevertheless, it is entirely in line of modern progress in forensic medical to have every one charged with crime, in which there is reasonable doubt about his mental condition, examined by fair and competent experts.

This matter is of such vital importance, that our laws and practices should be amended, so as to put it in the power of, and make it the duty of, the court to name the experts instead of having them selected by the defense, or the prosecution. The witnesses thus called should, of course, be subjected to cross-examination by both sides in the case. This would at least prevent the possibility of the expert being partisan, which he should never be. Another plan which appeals to me, is to have the court appoint a commission of experts whose duty it would be to examine and study the case in question and report its opinion to the court. The report should be open to both the prosecution and the defense and, if desired, used in evidence. A correct solution would in this way usually be quickly reached.

In at least two or three states it has been recommended that the organized medical associations furnish the courts a list of names of members of the profession, from which an expert, or experts may be selected, as required. The expert should always be paid out of the public treasury, and his compensation should be a fair one. At all events, I trust that this Society and the Virginia Bar Association will take up this matter jointly and recommend to the legislature a bill looking to the solution of this difficult problem.

PROTECTION OF CHILDREN'S HEALTH.

An important causative factor in the increase of nervousness and insanity is to be found in our faulty educational methods. The subject of overwork of school children at a tender age, and often under unhygienic condition both in respect to person and environment, and during the critical period of puberty and adolescence, is a serious one. It calls for the most careful consideration by the medical profession. Parents and teachers should be warned against the everlasting strain under which young children are constantly laboring to keep up with the prescribed course of study in our schools; particularly those children whose health is already in jeopardy from unfavorable heredity.

One of the greatest needs of the hour is a more extensive and systematic medical examination of all school children, especially those

who show any evidence of physical or mental weakness or defect. Instead of the irregular, haphazard methods that usually prevail—each city or county doing the work in its own way and in its own time—there should be a well-organized authoritative power to direct intelligent efforts towards definite ends. Many cases of insanity and nervous breakdown in adult life can be traced directly to the school room. City and county school boards would do well to have medical members, whose advice and suggestions in sanitary and hygienic matters, and in the physical and mental condition of the pupils, would be of inestimable value.

There is a class of children for which I make a special plea. It is the really feeble-minded. The well-to-do may employ trained teachers, or send their mentally defective children to special schools. The less fortunate poor having no such advantage, their mentally deficient children have to remain at home, untaught and neglected, to grow up in intellectual darkness, doomed to a life of inutility.

Both as humanitarians and scientists, physicians should unite with the intelligent non-professional public, in urging suitable instruction for the mentally abnormal children, in separate classes, auxiliary schools attached to the ordinary schools, or, perhaps, in special institutions. Such children "don't know where they are going," but, we know, that "they are

on their way"—to hopeless degeneracy, or to become objects of public care. It is a duty we owe the rising and future generations to develop the physical as well as the intellectual and the moral attributes of children. The responsibility of furnishing for the future a vigorous, brainy, high-minded and moral manhood and womanhood cannot be shirked by those of this generation.

EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC IN MEDICINE.

Educated and trained in the science and art of medicine, qualified to appreciate the causes of disease and the means of prevention, the physician owes it to himself, his profession and the State, to educate public opinion in the direction of the promotion and the development of means for relieving human suffering. It is his paramount duty to teach the people in matters pertaining to the preservation of their health, in order that they may be happy and useful citizens.

Dr. Joseph D. Bryant, recently President of the American Medical Association, enunciates a sound doctrine in these words: "Those physicians who regard the practice of medicine as a business enterprise should class themselves as brokers in a market of human affliction." The profession of medicine is essentially altruistic in character. Yet, there is no reason that the physician should not apply conservative business principles in the conduct

of his practice, and have a proper estimate of the value of his professional services. The people should learn to discriminate between the value of the service of a high-grade, competent doctor and that of the "cheap commodity."

The public should be given, as far as practicable, a proper understanding of our work and our progress, our purposes and our aims; of their needs and our ability to supply them. We owe it to the great science we represent, to be frank and open in all our dealings with others, carrying always a cheerful spirit. As Dr. William S. Thayer says: "The physician has no higher public duties than the duty of simplicity, the duty of the avoidance of mystery in medicine, and the duty of truthfulness. Towards his patients I know of no more vital duty than the duty of optimism." There must be, however, a responsive and intelligent co-operation between the people and the medical profession. It is in this way only that we gather strength to direct and carry into successful operation measures for the betterment of the health of the people.

In his inaugural address before the American Medical Association this year, Dr. Herbert L. Burrell emphasized the following agencies by which the public should be educated in medicine: First, judiciously edited newspaper articles, authorized by a responsible board of medical men; second, magazine articles written by

skilled lay writers, inspired by medical men of sound knowledge and discretion; third, free public lectures by men who are authorities in their subjects; fourth, individual teaching by the family physician. The last, he regards, as the most potent agency of all.

MEDICAL LEGISLATION.

It is a solemn duty of physicians to take a special interest, yes, take the initiative, in medical legislation. They should fearlessly advocate needed reforms and point the way to the creation of the necessary agencies having for their aims the prevention and the cure of disease and the advance of medical science. Legislatures, being composed largely of men untrained in the consideration of such subjects, need to be frankly and intelligently informed by competent physicians. While we have not always impressed the law-makers sufficiently to get through all the legislation we desire, we have, nevertheless, succeeded to a measurable degree. Let us not lose patience or become discouraged, but, with a strong will and a united force, continue our efforts. Be earnest and active. The loss of many a good cause has been due to disastrous inactivity.

I have found that the Virginia legislators have been, with comparatively few exceptions, gentlemen whose aims were for the welfare of the community. It is seldom that men in political or public life are not influenced by sound

argument and open to conviction, certainly when approached in a tactful, judicious manner by an earnest, conscientious advocate. Some one has truthfully said that "the vehemence which we are too apt to display only excite the sensitiveness of the legislator—and when passion enters in, reason passes out of the door."

In order that we may go before the legislature of 1910 with the strongest possible backing and show of success, I would suggest that, at this session of our society, the incoming president appoint special committees, whose duty it shall be to co-operate with and aid our legislative committee in studying the situation and the apparent needs and getting into line for good work. At our next session we should analyze the recommendations of such committees, and give united support to whatever, in the judgment of the society, may seem proper. And then bills should be properly drawn and presented early in the session.

The subjects which seem to me to be worthy of such consideration are:

1. The physician's license tax, a matter about which we have already spoken in no uncertain tone.

2. Amendments to the medical practice acts; adequate protection of a credulous public against the pernicious practice of quack fleecers.

3. Prevention of the manufacture and sale of impure, adulterated drugs, and the regulation of the "patent" and proprietary medicine business.

4. Further restriction of the selling or distribution of cocaine and opium or "remedies" containing them, or other poisonous drugs.

5. Further improvement in laws relating to public health organizations; the systematic registration of all births and deaths; increase of the funds to be expended by the State Board of Health in the excellent work already begun.

6. The establishment of sanatoria for consumptives; institutions for the feeble minded; colonies for epileptics, and probably inebriates.

7. Uniform medical examination of school children; the teaching and the practical application of school hygiene; special schools or classes for the teaching of backward children.

8. Statutory prohibition or regulation of the marriage of the unfit, the imbecile, and other defectives.

9. Revision of laws regulating expert testimony, and examination and commitment of and special provision for the criminal insane.

If nothing else were accomplished, we would gain from study and investigation a far more comprehensive understanding of these subjects than we now have, which would lead to concert of action, and place us upon a higher plane.

MEDICAL ORGANIZATION.

The most profitable attainment of the medical profession, both as regards its own progress and welfare, and its usefulness and influence in the community, is a broad-gauged, strong organization. The fundamental objects of a medical society should be to encourage professional attainments, to "inculcate a high sense of professional honor," and a proper appreciation of ethical conduct, and to cultivate good fellowship and professional brotherhood.

Safeguarded by pure personal character, and the "highest motives of professional purposes and of public welfare," we can keep ourselves immune from even suspicion of questionable conduct or of selfish and commercial purposes.

Organized nearly forty years ago by ninety-eight progressive, public-spirited doctors, the Medical Society of Virginia has grown, till now the membership roll has reached about 1,500. There are only a few reputable physicians in the State who are not connected with the association. Its potential and uplifting influence has been largely instrumental in bringing up to its present height the standard of medical qualification in the State, the elevation of medical knowledge, and in pressing on to higher professional ideals and accomplishments, and in creating more general public confidence in the science and art of medicine.

Each county and city of the State should

have a local organization which should be in affiliation with the parent Society. There are now only thirty-five city, county and district medical societies in the State. There should be many more. There should be co-operation and co-ordination of all our forces. Individuals and organizations should unite in earnest efforts for the upbuilding of the profession everywhere.

Some day we should commemorate in a fitting manner the work of those pioneers in medical organization in this State, nearly all of whom have gone to their reward. But, my colleagues,

“God be thanked that the dead have left still
 Good undone for the living to do—
 Still some aim for the heart and the will
 And the soul of a man to pursue.”

With this session our new or revised Constitution and By-Laws go actively into operation. Let us, gentlemen, give our “new instrument” a fair test, and then, as occasion arises, make such alterations as may seem desirable to serve the best interest of the Society and the profession of the State. Changes were made with the view that the affairs of the Society may be conducted more nearly in accordance with the modern methodical way prevailing in similar organizations; that, by a more widespread representation in the official management, more personal

interest would be manifested; and that, by a large representative committee, the Executive Council, composed of sixteen members from different sections of the State, putting into proper shape all business matters before they are submitted for final action by the Society, and the nomination to the Society of officers and committees, more time would be had for scientific papers and discussions.

Perhaps there should be some amendments to the new constitution and by-laws. Unless, though, their adoption be urgent, it seems to me that it would be the part of wisdom to refer all such propositions to the Executive Council, with instructions to thoroughly investigate and report recommendations at our next annual session. This would give ample time for reflection by every member of the Society, many of whom cannot attend this session.

The matters that should probably be considered are:

1. The publication of the entire transactions, including papers, etc., in bound volume. Whether the large amount annually expended for this purpose is justifiable, and whether the greater part of the matter usually published is of practical value, are questions that should be carefully looked into.

2. The permanency of a place or places of the annual sessions in the larger cities; the

establishment of a fixed home, and a library. It is time that we were collecting and storing away in some systematic method the writings of our own physicians and surgeons, and also establishing a circulating and reference library.

3. The division of the Society, at annual sessions, into sections, probably medical and surgical, in order to get through with the program of papers in a satisfactory manner.

4. The establishment of a fund to be used in the encouragement of original research, and probably efforts along other lines in the direction of the uplift of the science of medicine.

5. The question of the finances of the Society also needs to be considered, and, if practicable, some plan devised by which the everlasting stringency in our treasury department may be relieved.

In the words of an eminent physician, "Despite the fact that we are all human, and possess our fair share of human frailties, we are, with singularly few exceptions, all working earnestly, as best we can, in the search of truth and for the good of humanity."

Let us continue to work onward and upward, striving ever to add to what we have already accomplished, for "every day and all day long the process goes on, a death of error, a development of truth." Take hope, for, in the words of a great statesman, "we are rising steadily to plains higher than we have yet known."

Each of us is needed in the firing line. Be not only urgers of reforms wherever needed, but doers of the work. Let us not only create a "storm of current which clears the atmosphere. but be the trade wind which carries to port the freighted ship of a people's hope."

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11

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